

From: [Morning Consult](#)
To: [Smith, Paula](#)
Subject: Morning Consult Energy: Oil Minister Says OPEC Won't Cut Production, Buffet to Invest Millions More in Wind
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energy



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By Davis Burroughs (@[DAVISBURROUGHS](#))

Today's Washington Brief:

- Most pollsters give Republicans at least an even-money shot at regaining control of Congress. E&Es Rovin Bravender [reports](#) that would bring an "onslaught" of attacks to Obama's energy policies.

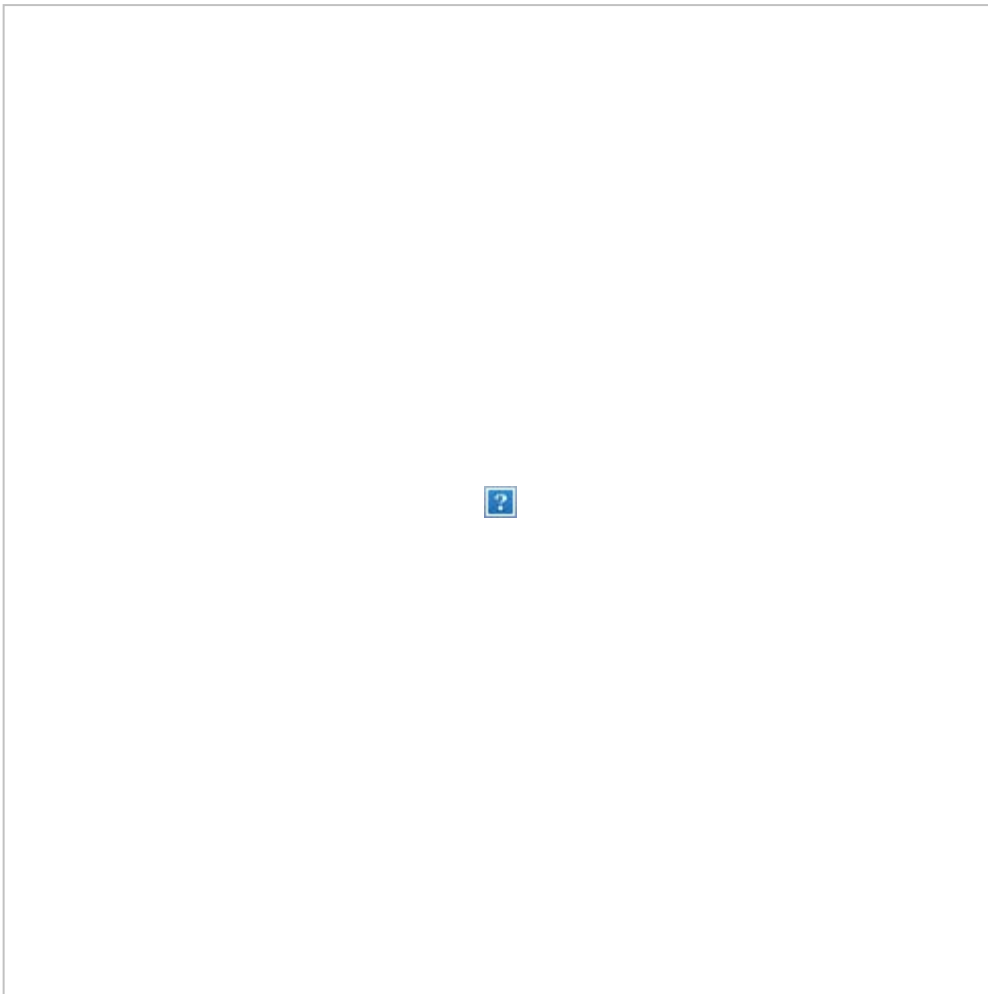
- House Democrats told the BLM to crackdown on illegal fracking, or "drilling without approval" [according](#) to Jennifer Dlouhy from Fuel Fix.

Today's Business Brief:

- Kuwait's oil minister was quoted as saying that OPEC would not cut production to raise prices, because doing so would not necessarily be effective, Reuters [reports](#).
- Billionair Warren Buffet is expected to invest an additional \$280 million into Iowa wind farms, James Ayre [reports](#) for Clean Technica.
- British Petroleum is under the spotlight again as a new report of inadequate safety compliance at one of the company's Gulf deepwater surfaced recently. BP says the report should not re-ignite a \$250 million lawsuit filed against them, [reports](#) Collin Eaton for Fuel Fix.

Today's Chart Review:

**[Comparing Apples with Oranges](#)
from the Energy Collective**



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NEWS ARTICLES

General

1) [Kuwait says OPEC unlikely to cut output to support prices -KUNA](#)
from Reuters by Rania El Gamal and Ahmed Hagagy

OPEC is unlikely to cut oil production in an effort to prop up prices because such a move would not necessarily be effective, Kuwait's oil minister Ali al-Omair was quoted as saying by state news agency KUNA on Sunday.

2) [Senate flip would spark onslaught against Obama policies](#)
from E&E by Robin Bravender

For the first six years of the Obama administration, Senate Republicans' minority status has handcuffed their efforts to rein in the environmental and energy policies they loathe. But if Republicans retake the Senate in this year's election, it'll be open season for attacks on President Obama's environmental agenda.

3) [Satellites reveal massive methane leaks in Four Corners region](#)
from E&E by Gayathri Vaidyanathan

Researchers using satellite data have pinpointed New Mexico's San Juan Basin as a major source of leaking methane in the United States. The region was responsible for 10 percent of all the methane emissions from the natural gas sector in the country, according to a [study](#) published yesterday in *Geophysical Research Letters*. If gas, coal mining and petroleum sectors are included, the San Juan Basin was responsible for 5 percent of the emissions.

4) [Moniz Sees Financial Innovation Boosting Energy Security](#)
from the WSJ by Russell Gold

Energy security may be more elusive than previously believed. U.S. Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz said that while America's rising crude oil and natural gas production is helping reduce the country's dependence on foreign imports, "energy security is a collective responsibility."

5) [Democrats tell feds to crack down on illegal drilling](#)
from Fuel Fix by Jennifer A. Dlouhy

Federal land managers need to work harder to prevent oil companies from illegally burrowing into federal mineral estate, four House Democrats say. In [a letter to Bureau of Land Management Director Neil Kornze](#), the Democrats note that the potential economic and environmental costs of a practice known as “drilling without approval” can be substantial — as much as \$530,000 annually in lost royalties to North Dakota alone.

6) [BP: \\$256 billion lawsuit against it should stay dead](#)
from Fuel Fix by Collin Eaton

BP says a recently unearthed government report has no bearing on whether a judge should retry a \$256 billion lawsuit over safety compliance issues at one of its deep-water production platforms in the Gulf of Mexico.

7) [Holiday drivers closest to paying \\$3 gasoline in 4 years](#)
from Fuel Fix by Bloomberg

With deep declines expected in gasoline prices this holiday season, Thanksgiving drivers should have one less thing to worry about on the busiest travel day of the year.

8) [Warren Buffett's MidAmerican Energy Investing \\$280 Million More Into Iowa Wind Farms](#)
from Clean Technica by James Ayre.

Warren Buffet's energy investment vehicle MidAmerican Energy — which has already invested over \$15 billion into renewable energy — will soon be investing a further \$280 million into Iowa wind farms.

9) [Ernst, Braley clash over EPA in debate](#)
from Politico Pro by James Hohmann

Republican Joni Ernst defended her call to eliminate the Environmental Protection Agency during an Iowa Senate race debate here Saturday night, saying states should lead the way on ending pollution.

10) [U.S. Index Futures Rise as Growth Concerns Spur Fed Bets](#)
from Bloomberg by Jonathan Morgan and Joseph Ciolli

U.S. stock-index **futures** climbed, after the Standard & Poor's 500 Index posted its biggest weekly drop in two years, amid speculation slowing global growth may cause the [Federal Reserve](#) to delay raising [interest rates](#).

Oil

11) [Crude futures move sideways as OPEC scrutiny intensifies](#)
from Platts by Geoffrey Craig

Crude futures closed essentially flat Friday, snapping a recent selloff, as pressure mounts on OPEC to stem the tide of falling prices.

12) [Energy Journal: OPEC's Strife Deepens](#)
from the WSJ by Andrew People

The latest comments from different OPEC sources suggest there is indeed a [deep malaise](#) within the cartel that for so long has been key to the path of oil prices.

Natural Gas

13) [In Texas, Traffic Deaths Climb Amid Fracking Boom](#)

from NPR by Andrew Schneider

Hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, has unlocked huge reserves of oil and gas in shale formations in many states. The biggest winner, in terms of new jobs, has been Texas. But an investigation by [Houston Public Media](#) and the [Houston Chronicle](#) shows Texas highways have become the nation's deadliest amid a fracking boom.

14) [Dilemma in the Marcellus Shale: How to dispose of radioactive oil and gas waste?](#)

from the Pittsburgh Post Gazette by Anya Litvak

There is no reliable mechanism for the DEP to keep track of how much oil and gas waste is going into state landfills. Landfill records, which are filed on paper, don't give breakdowns of waste by industry. Drillers are required to report where they submit their waste electronically, but, as a [recent Post-Gazette analysis](#) showed, there is widespread underreporting and inaccuracies in that data.

Utilities and Infrastructure

15) [Utility Stocks Gain Edge in Power Play](#)

from the WSJ by David Reilly

Sure, the technology sector has the glitz and glamour nowadays, not to mention the biggest-ever U.S. initial public offering thanks to Alibaba's recent listing. What tech doesn't have is top stock-market performance. At least not when compared with that most unglamorous of sectors: utilities. So far this year, the S&P 500 information technology sector index is up 7.1%; the Nasdaq Composite is up just 2.4%. Meanwhile, the S&P 500 utilities sector index has risen 13%.

16) [Mid-Atlantic operator offers bid to salvage demand response](#)

from E&E by Rod Kuckro

The operator of the nation's largest wholesale electricity market, in an attempt to salvage its ability to use demand-response programs to help shape its power needs now and in the future, is floating a "trial balloon" that has already stirred up an unprecedented level of stakeholder interest.

Coal

17) [Institute for Energy Research: EPA driving coal plants into retirement](#)

from SNL by Eric Wolff

In a [report](#) released Oct. 10, the right-leaning Institute for Energy Research said U.S. EPA rules will drive or already have driven 72 GW of power plant capacity into retirement. The report lays much of the blame on the agency's Mercury and Air Toxics Standards, but says the Cross-State Air Pollution Rule, which is presently stayed by a court, and proposed carbon dioxide regulations will accelerate the process. The natural gas boom and concurrent drop in gas prices were not examined in the report.

Nuclear

18) [The key to nuclear's future or an element of doubt?](#)

from Reuters by Geert De Clercq

Behind thick glass in a laboratory nestled in French woodland, a silvery molten metal swirls like a liquid mirror. But the material is no mere novelty; as dangerous as it is captivating, it could offer a solution to the

nuclear power debate.

Renewables

19) [Offshore Wind Power Can Save U.S. Billions On Electricity, Recent DOE Study Finds](#) from the Energy Collective by Kit Kennedy

Offshore wind power isn't usually associated with lower-cost energy, at least not in the public imagination. But it turns out that installing 54 gigawatts of offshore wind power off America's coasts can cut the cost of electricity in the U.S. by an astounding \$7.68 billion a year.

20) [North Carolina's Renewable Energy Boom Being Driven By Solar, According To New Report](#) from Clean Technica by James Ayre

North Carolina's recent renewable energy boom has been driven mostly by solar, according to a new report from The Pew Charitable Trusts. To be exact, the state saw its solar energy capacity grow by 335 MW in 2013 — making it the 3rd-fastest-growing state in the US with regard to renewable energy capacity.

OPINIONS, EDITORIALS, PERSPECTIVES

21) [Showdown Looms over Federal Wind Subsidy](#) from the Heartland Institute by Bonner Cohen

With Congress returning from its August recess, proponents of extending a federal subsidy to the wind-energy industry—the production tax credit (PTC)—say they plan to leave no stone unturned in their efforts to continue receiving favorable treatment under the tax code.

22) [“Fracking for the cure”? Susan G. Komen gets it all wrong, again](#) from SF Gate by Mark Morford

Here's a question: Is the Susan G. Komen breast cancer foundation insane? More tone deaf than the NFL, the GOP and Fox News, combined? Just doesn't give a damn anymore? It would appear so. How else to explain that, a scant two years after the infamous pink-everything cancer foundation insulted all intelligent women everywhere by yanking its support for Planned Parenthood (and then frantically reinstating it, and then dumping its CEO, and then having a [very public meltdown/shame session](#) that nearly destroyed the organization's reputation forever), all of which was only a couple years after teaming up with that beloved bastion of healthy eating, [Kentucky Fried Chicken](#) — here they are again, joining forces with a company that specializes in, uh, ripping apart the earth so violently, it can cause earthquakes.

23) [USDA Invests \\$68 Million in 540 Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Projects Nationwide](#) from the USDA

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack today announced that USDA is investing in 540 renewable energy and energy efficiency projects nationwide... Funding includes loan guarantees and grants for solar energy to create jobs, promote energy independence and advance the use of renewable fuels

24) [Some Thoughts on Divestment](#) from Exxon Mobil by Ken Cohen

We can all agree that climate change poses a significant challenge for the world. The question, then, is what sort of action should be taken? One proposal that is being pushed — [with a full-throated endorsement from Mary Robinson](#), Ban Ki-Moon's special envoy on climate issues — is a movement to get large institutional investors to divest their holdings of companies involved in producing fossil fuels.

RESEARCH REPORTS, ISSUE BRIEFS, CASE STUDIES

25) [Moving to a Low-Carbon Economy: The Financial Impact of the Low-Carbon Transition](#) from the Climate Policy Initiative

Moving to a Low Carbon Economy: The Financial Impact of the Low-Carbon Transition," compares the costs of low-carbon electricity and low-carbon transportation systems with current systems.

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